

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR KS
SUBJ: CIVAIR-CONSTRUCTION OPERATON SEOUL CARGO TERMINAL

REF: (A) STATE 289419; (B) STATE 294086; (C) STATE 305211

1. EMBOFF MET WITH SUH JIN HWAN, DIRECTOR, CONSTRUCTION OFFICE, MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION, DECEMBER 23 AND RAISED POINTS NOTED REFTELS A AND C. OUR CONCERN ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ANY MONOPOLY IN CARGO TERMINAL OR GROUND HANDLING SERVICES WAS PARTICULARLY STRESSED. NOTE WAS ALSO MADE OF POSSIBLE COMPENSATORY CHARGES WHICH COULD BE IMPOSED UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORTATION FAIR COMPETITIVE PRACTICES ACT (FCPA).

2. SUH MADE COPIOUS NOTES OF PRESENTATION AND PROMISED THAT USG CONCERN IN THIS MATTER WOULD BE TRANSMITTED TO THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES. HE STATED THAT A FINAL DECISION ON THE OPERATION OF THE NEW CARGO TERMINAL WOULD BE MADE BY THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION UPON THE RECOMMENDATIONS SUBMITTED BY THE AIRLINE CONSTRUCTION CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (ACCC) AND OTHERS STUDYING THIS MATTER. THE NEXT MEETING OF THE ACCC WOULD BE HELD JANUARY 12 OR 13, AND SUH DID NOT EXPECT ANY DECISION UNTIL SOME TIME LATER.
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3. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, SUH STATED HE BELIEVED THAT A SINGLE OPERATING COMPANY FOR THE TERMINAL, POSSIBLY A GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION, WOULD BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE SIZE OF THE TERMINAL WOULD BE ONLY TEN THOUSAND SQUARE METERS AND IF DIVIDED

AMONG THE VARIOUS AIRLINES IT WOULD PROVIDE THEM EACH WITH AN OPERATING SPACE OF LESS THAN TWO THOUSAND SQUARE METERS. SUH, HOWEVER, ASSURED EMBOFF THAT THE POSITION OF THE AIRLINES AS WELL AS THE EMBASSY'S REPRESENTATIONS IN THIS MATTER WOULD BE GIVEN FULL CONSIDERATION.

4. EMBOFF RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF POSSIBLE AIRLINE CONTRIBUTIONS TO CONSTRUCTION COSTS OF NEW TERMINAL IN ORDER TO PROVIDE MORE ADEQUATE FACILITIES. SUH REPLIED THAT THIS WAS A POSSIBILITY, ALTHOUGH IT COULD PRESENT PROBLEMS FOR THE KOREAN SIDE. HE ADDED THAT, IN FACT, THIS IDEA WAS RECEIVING SOME CONSIDERATION.

5. COMMENT: SUH WAS VISIBLY TAKEN BACK WHEN THE MATTER OF COMPENSATORY CHARGES WAS RAISED AND APPEARED IN A CONCILIATORY MOOD. UNLESS DEPARTMENT PERCEIVES AN OBJECTION, EMBASSY'S ECONOMIC COUNSELOR INTENDS TO DISCUSS THE MATTER OF THE OPERATION OF THE CARGO TERMINAL WITH MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION SHORTLY AFTER NEW YEAR.
SNEIDER

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